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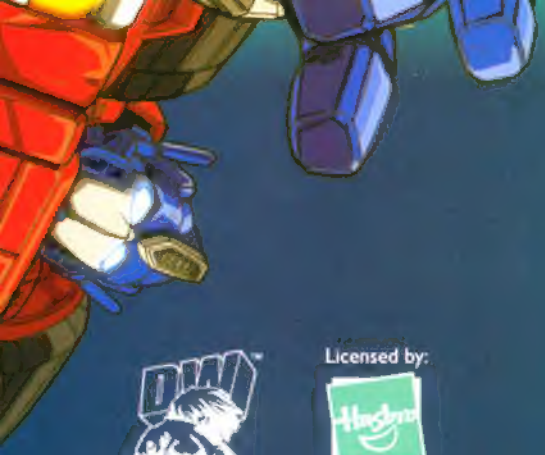

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THE WAR WITHIN

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CYBERTRON, WITHIN:

...IT HAS SAILED THE STARSCAPES, TENDED BUDDING GALAXIES...

...FOREVER A BUFFER TO THE ENCROACHING DARKNESS.

AND NOW ITS FATE...

...IS IN YOUR HANDS.

HHH-UH!

WHERE--?

OW. AH... YES. THE BRIDGE! I FELL...

WE WERE-- THEN...

MEGATRON...

"...WHERE'S MEGATRON?"

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ORBITAL TORUS STATE: KAON.

WHERE IS MEGATRON?

THE DECEPTICON FORTRESS OF KOLKULAR:

THE CRADLE:

DEAD. A TRAGIC ACCIDENT.

I'M CALLING THE SHOTS NOW, SHOCKWAVE.

REALLY.

AFTER I HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF AUTOBOT RESISTENCE AND CLAIMED IACON IN THE NAME OF THE DECEPTICONS...

...WE WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION, SHOCKWAVE OUT.

PFAH. WE'LL SEE.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, STARSCREAM?

WELL, FOR A START, DOWNLOAD EVERY SCRAP OF INFORMATION IN LASERBEAK HERE...

...I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MEGATRON HAD IN MIND.

IF HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH...

...THEN I MIGHT JUST RE-MAKE CYBERTRON IN MY OWN IMAGE!

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BELOW:
WELL? WHERE AM I? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ENLIGHTEN ME?
MY LAST REFLECTION CERTAINLY HAD A LOT TO SAY FOR ITSELF.
OH, THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
I HAVE TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE. NO EASY TASK... WHEN I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW I GOT IN!
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A---
TH-BOOM!
---DOOR!

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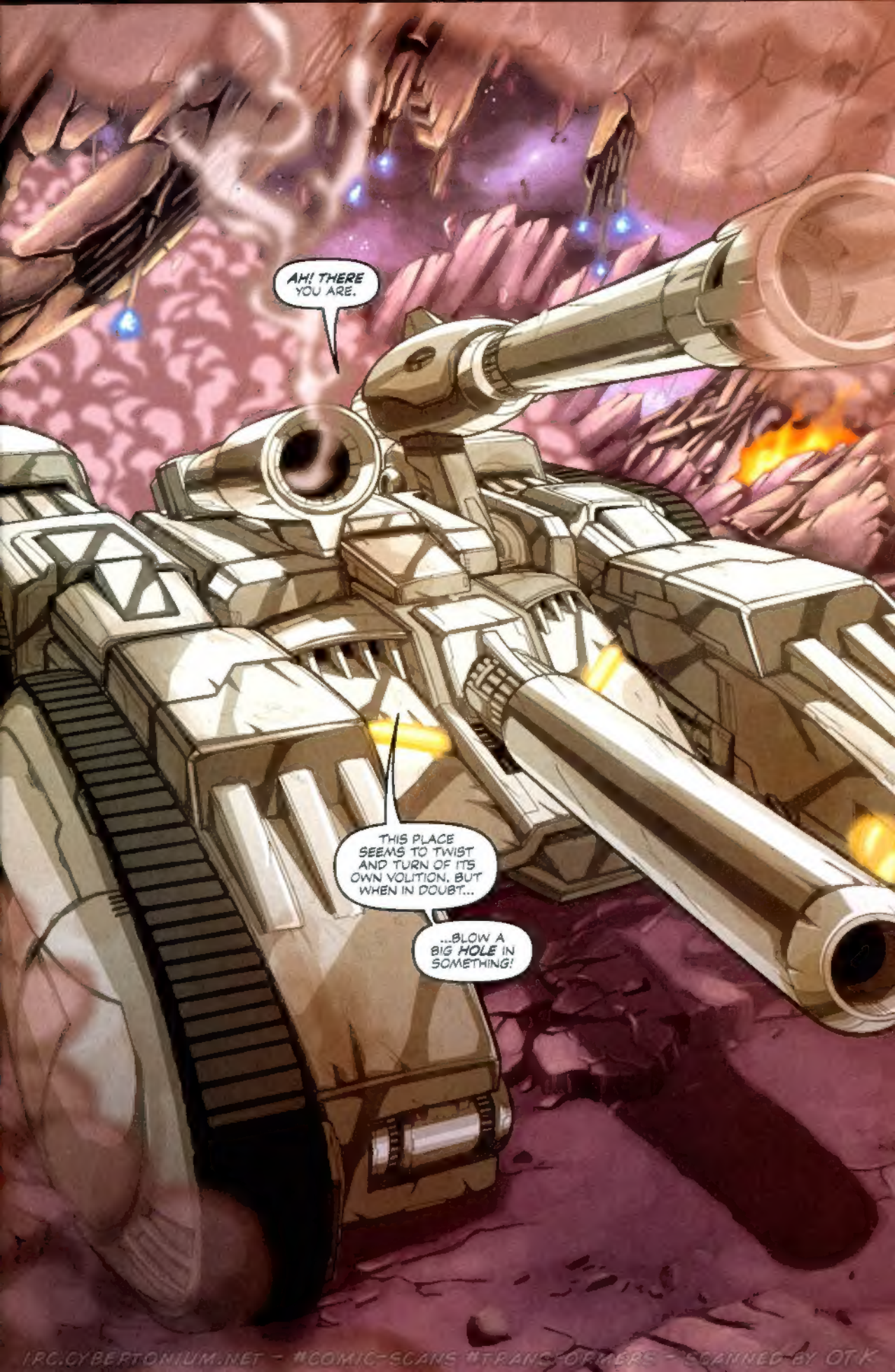

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NOW, WHERE WERE WE? OH YES...
CHUDD!
HUKK!
...I WAS ABOUT TO GET SURGICAL!
THE MATRIX, PRIME-- SURRENDER IT OR I WILL SIMPLY EXTRACT IT. THERE'S NO ONE COMING...
...NO ONE CAN HELP YOU NOW!

SUB-ORBITAL OVERWAY:
THE TRI-TORUS LOOP:
SO, GRIMLOCK... WE GOING IN?
YES, KUP, WE GOING IN.
BUT NOT TO IACON.
WHAT--?
WE LET IACON GO.
COME AGAIN?

"YOU HEARD. RIGHT NOW, DECEPTICONS FOCUSED ON IACON. AS PROWL SAY, TACTICAL ERROR.
"WE USE TIME TO RE-FORTIFY ELSE-WHERE, RAID DECEPTICON ARSENALS, KNOCK OUT ENEMY POSITIONS.
"IN IACON ITSELF, JAZZ IS OVERSEEING THE EXTRACTION OF ESSENTIAL HARDWARE AND ARTIFACTS...
"...BEFORE--"
BEFORE WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT JAZZ AND ALL THE OTHERS IN IACON? HOW DO WE GO ABOUT EXTRACTING THEM?
WE DON'T.
IF DECEPTICONS SUSPECT WE PULLING OUT, WE LOSE EDGE.
HN. SO WE "LET IACON GO." KNOW WHO YOU SOUND LIKE, GRIMLOCK?

OPTIMUS PRIME...
WHAT A JOKE!
WITHIN:
YOU'D THINK, THIS TIME AT LEAST, THEY'D OFFER ME A CHALLENGE.
BUT NO...
...I GET YOU.
A JUMPED-UP RECORDS CLERK, CARRYING POWER HE BARELY COMPREHENDS. REALLY.
..THEY MIGHT HAVE JUST AS WELL GIVEN THE MATRIX DIRECTLY TO ME!

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WHY? THE MATRIX IS A WINDOW INTO THE PAST, CERTAINLY... BUT WHAT POSSIBLE USE--?
THE MATRIX IS POWER. THE ORIGINAL POWER.
HAVE YOU NEVER WONDERED . WHAT CAME BEFORE? WE ARE AGELESS, TIMELESS, AND YET WE HAVE NO MEMORY OF CREATION, NO CONCEPT OF WHO OR WHAT WE TRULY ARE.
OR WHAT WE CAN BE!
THIS WORLD.. IS A BOX OF SECRETS, A STOREHOUSE OF PRIMEVAL KNOWLEDGE. ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE STRUGGLED TO UNLOCK THE ENIGMA THAT IS CYBERTRON.
AND I BELIEVE THE MATRIX IS THE KEY.
IMAGINE, THIS PLANET. . TRANSFORMED, MOBILE. NO LONGER BOUND BY STELLAR ORBITS OR SPACIAL TOPOGRAPHY.
IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES!

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WHAT WOULD YOU SAY, PRIME, IF I TOLD YOU THE ENGINES THAT MOVED CYBERTRON WERE ONCE AGAIN FUNCTIONAL...
AWAITING ONLY THE FUEL-- THE MATRIX ITSELF-- TO DRIVE THEM ACROSS THE GALAXY?
I WOULD SAY...
...THAT I'LL STOP YOU DEAD--
--OR DIE TRYING.

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WELL..
THE CRADLE:
WELL WELL, WELL..
IT SEEMS THERE IS A MECHAFORMING SUB-STRUCTURE.
A WHAT?
A SECOND SKIN, IDIOT. A NEW LAYER OF CYBERTRON BURIED UNDER OUR FEET.
ONCE THE WAR'S WON, YOU KIND OF START OVER FRESH, REPLACE THE MESS YOU'VE MADE OF THE PLANET.
BUT, HEY, WHY WAIT?
WE COULD START NOW...
...RIGHT HERE!

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BELOW:
HMM... GOOD. YES!
I RATHER HOPED YOU'D PUT UP A FIGHT.
YOUR PREDECESSOR, SENTINEL PRIME, WHEN FACED WITH HIS OWN EXTINCTION ACTUALLY TRIED TO REACH ME WITH DOCTRINE AND SERMON.
OH WHAT, I WONDER..
...WILL YOU BASE YOUR LAST, DESPERATE PLEA?
GU-AH.
THE TRUTH IS, MEGATRON, BASED ON WHAT I'VE SEEN AND HEARD TODAY...

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IT'S STRANGE. BEFORE I WAS FULL OF DOUBT. UNSURE OF EITHER MY PATH OR MYSELF...
...BUT YOU HAVE A WAY OF MAKING EVERYTHING CRYSTAL CLEAR, MEGATRON.
YOU HAVE TO BE--
OH, I'M SORRY...
...WERE YOU SAYING SOMETHING?
GNN-AH!
CHSSK!

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CAN T--
UNN-GGH!
HN-UFF!
I AM RARELY DENIED, SO IMAGINE MY CHAGRIN WHEN I CRACKED SENTINEL PRIME...
...TO FIND THE MATRIX NO LONGER IN RESIDENCE.
I TRUST THIS TIME.
..I WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED'
SKKAK-AAAAAK!

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IACON, SUB-ORBITAL DISTRICT.
THE ONCE AND FORMER FORUM OF ENLIGHTENMENT:
OH. YOU MEAN "IN."
ATTACH LINES. WE TRACK THIS BACK TO SOURCE.
PROWL THINK IT CONNECTED, TO DECIS ON TO ATTACK IACON, TO MEGATRON.. TO OPTIMUS PRIME
SO, THIS IS A RESCUE MISSION RIGHT?
DEPENDS. SEE, ME STILL NOT CONVINCED
...NEW PRIME WORTH SAVING AT ALL'
HH. ALL THE DIRTY JOBS...

WITHIN:
SHEE-AH!
TOO MUCH, I CAN'T--
NO! THIS IS MADNESS. WHERE..

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TRANSFORMERS THE WAR WITHIN

The action builds to fever pitch, as war rages on all fronts. Above ground, STARSCREAM prepares to activate MEGATRON's mecha-forming machinery, transforming Cybertron irrevocably and dooming the AUTOBOTS the process, while below OPTIMUS PRIME and MEGATRON battle across time, witnesses to the ultimate future of the TRANSFORMER race. PRIME's last and best hope may be his most outspoken adversary... GRIMLOCK!

ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2003

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(TOP) THE WAR WITHIN # 1 COVER POSTER

Before ARMADA... before the BEAST WARS... before even GENERATION 1... there was THE WAR WITHIN. The spectacular pencils by series artist Don Figueroa are only enhanced by the digital painting of colorist Alan Wang, in this postenized version of the War Within #1 wrap-around cover. Join the battle, as a new TRANSFORMERS history is forged!

(LEFT) ARMADA # 8 COVER POSTER

Fans of evil, be on the lookout for this ominous new TRANSFORMERS: Armada poster! Featured this time is MEGATRON, leader of the DECEPTICONS, as he contemplates the power of the ultimate MINI-CON weapon: the STAR SABER! Penciled by Pat Lee, inked by Rob Armstrong, and colored by Gary Young!

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THE #1 SELLING SERIES RETURNS...

TRANSFORMERS

GENERATION 1

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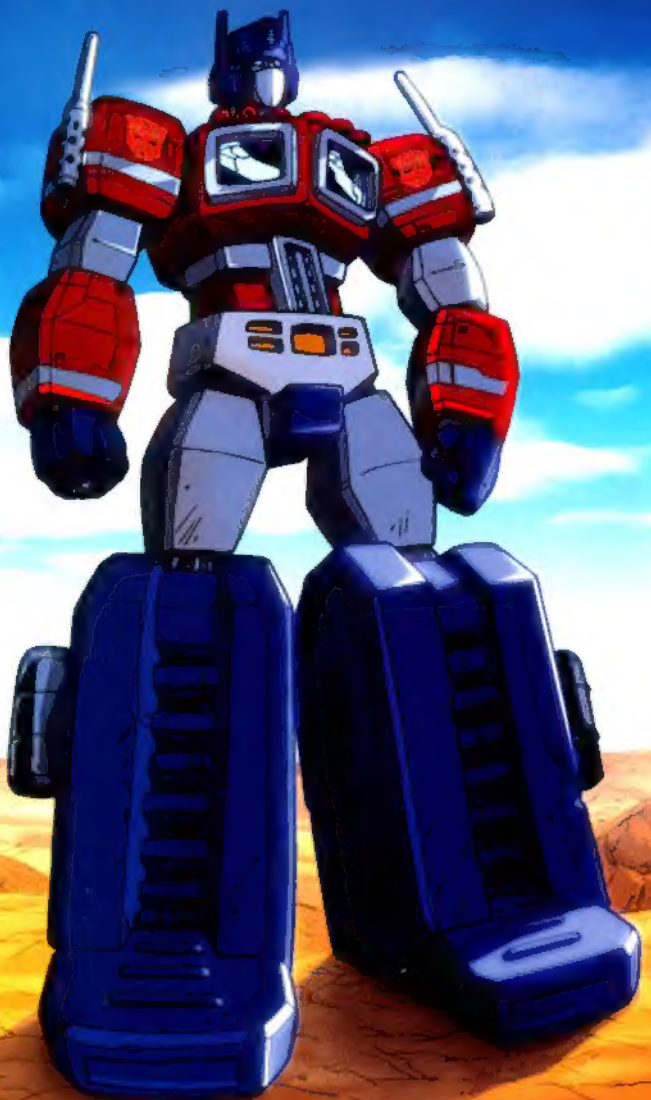

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